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of Candia; by A. Petermann. A Chinese Map of China, by J. L. Southey, Esq. Geological Sketch of the Province of Wellington, New Zealand. Geological Sections of the Province of Wellington, New Zealand. Map of United States, on 3 sheets, by E. G. Ravenstein, Esq. 7 Maps of the River Nile, by Dr. Kiepert. Ordnance Maps, 122 in number, the Ordnance Survey Office.

The PRESIDENT said, before he called upon the Secretary to read the communications (which were exclusively upon Australia), it was his painful duty to announce the failure of two African expeditions, upon the success of which geographers had set their hearts. Those who had attended the meetings of the Society would recollect that the greatest importance had been attached to an expedition fitted out by Baron Charles von der Decken, a Hanoverian nobleman, to explore the interior of Africa from the east coast, proceeding from Zanzibar and ascending one of the rivers of that coast. For this purpose he had fitted out two steamers entirely at his own expense, and provided the expedition with every sort of material to enable it to succeed. This was the same vigorous explorer who was the first to really settle that great question of a snowy mountain under the equator, the mountain of Kilimandjaro. The news which has just been communicated by Col. Playfair, our Consul at Zanzibar, now in England, was to the effect that the Baron had lost both his steamers on the bar of the River Jub; was nearly dead himself with cholera or dysentery; and that his party had been in collision with the natives. The other, but much more partial failure, was that of M. Du Chaillu, who had most nobly appropriated all the little fortune he had gained by the sale of his work to the fitting out of a fresh expedition. He had been in the first place delayed because his instruments were lost by the upsetting of a canoe; but he waited for fresh instruments, and in the mean time devoted himself to the collection of objects of natural history. After shipping these to England, and thus supplying the British Museum with numerous fine specimens of the gorilla and other animals, he at last proceeded upon his travels into the interior; and all that was heard of him was that he had penetrated into the Ashira country, and gone far beyond the point he attained during his former journey. He had undergone great difficulties, apparently; but nothing further had been communicated until the receipt of a telegram on Saturday evening last from Dartmouth, in these words: "Obliged to fight my way back to the coast; wounded twice; astronomical observations and journals saved; will be in town on Monday." Notwithstanding this calamitous result, he (the President) was very happy to find that the conclusion of the telegram assured us that this adventurous explorer had preserved his observations, which would undoubtedly be of great value, and the Society would hope to hear shortly from his own lips, at one of its meetings, the knowledge he had obtained in this expedition.

The following Papers were read—

1. *An Overland Expedition from Port Denison, Queensland, to Cape York, under the command of Messrs. F. and A. Jardine.* By MR. RICHARDSON, Surveyor to the Expedition.

(Communicated by SIR GEORGE BOWEN, Governor of Queensland, through the COLONIAL OFFICE.)

THIS was an account of a remarkable journey undertaken for the purpose of discovering a route whereby live stock could be

taken by land from the interior Queensland pastures to supply the new settlement of Somerset, at Cape York. As the country to be travelled over, namely, the central and western portions of Cape York peninsula, was totally unexplored, a surveyor, Mr. Richardson, was attached to the party; and this gentleman, besides writing the account of the journey, had furnished a minute and elaborate map of the route, which was exhibited to the meeting. The party left Rockhampton on 14th of May, 1864, and reached Somerset on the 11th of March, 1865. In the months of October and November they traversed the country watered by the rivers Lynd and Mitchell, of which they report very unfavourably. Further to the north most of their horses died, apparently from eating a poisonous herb: death was preceded by excessive sweating, blindness, and contraction of the stomach. On leaving the west coast of the Gulf in January (lat. 14° s.), and striking eastward, good pastoral country was discovered—a great relief from the wretched region they had traversed since leaving the banks of the Lynd. Numerous creeks were crossed, the intervening spaces covered with long, coarse, dense grasses and sweet-smelling herbs. On the 24th of January they discovered a new river flowing westward into the Gulf, which they named the Jardine. The site of the town of Somerset is said by the explorers to be admirably selected, on the south-west side of the channel (800 yards wide) which separates the mainland from Albany Island.

This paper will be printed *in extenso* in 'Journal,' vol. xxxvi., with a map of the route.

2. *On the Establishment of a New Settlement, Cardwell, in Rockingham Bay, and the Discovery of a Route over the Coast Range to the Valley of Lagoons.* By GEORGE ELPHINSTONE DALRYMPLE, Esq.

(Communicated by SIR GEORGE BOWEN, Governor of Queensland.)

THE new settlement (Cardwell), promoted by Sir G. Bowen, Governor of Queensland, was founded in the month of January, 1864, by Mr. Dalrymple and his party, on the site previously marked out by Captain G. H. Richards, R.N., in Rockingham Bay. The shores of the bay—in the tropical parts of Queensland—are described as mountainous, together with the islands of various sizes which lie off its entrance. The mountains rise to the height of 3500 to 4000 feet, and their slopes and the plains at their feet are clothed with a dense and luxuriant tropical vegetation, resembling the most picturesque parts of Ceylon. The pastoral districts of this part of Queensland, to which Rockingham Bay should naturally serve as